

FILM AND TELEVISION

Film Program

A shift of focus in the past year gave more prominence to Council aid to the making of films than in any of the Film Program's three previous years. While school and community requests for assistance that would expand opportunities for seeing good movies continued to receive high priority, a widening variety of filmmaking ventures was supported by Council grants. Such activities involved both young people and adults, and Council assistance ranged from a two-week residency for a film teacher at a Queens high school to continuing support for the year-round Channel of Soul film workshop at the Buffalo YWCA. In 1969-70 the Film Program also extended its area of activity to inspire students and adults to look more closely at television and to produce new images and sounds for the TV medium.

Renewal of a substantial grant to the Young Filmmakers Foundation (now directed by Lynne Hofer, Rodger Larson, and Jaime Barrios) enabled the Foundation to continue its administration of the Film Club on Rivington Street in New York's Lower East Side and to provide advisory services in support of new and established film workshops in communities throughout the State. The Foundation's work with teen-age filmmakers included the production of such interpretative materials as film study guides for schools and institutions, television programs on the Icenage film, and a book, *Young Filmmakers*, by Rodger Larson. The Foundation has also been instrumental in setting up a Youth Film Distribution Center to enable films made by young people to reach a wider audience. Films distributed by the Center have now been seen by audiences of all ages in all fifty states, and one of them - *The End* by Alfonso Sanchez, Jr. - has been screened at the Cannes Film Festival and awarded first prize at an international festival of films by young people in Amsterdam.

An exploration of the creative potential of the television medium has been undertaken with Council support by Aldo Tambellini, an artist who has been experimenting with television as a creative medium for several years. Working with schools within the broadcast range of New York State's five non-commercial television stations (in Buffalo, Rochester, Syracuse, Schenectady, and New York City), he is meeting with students and teachers to discuss the unique properties of television and with station personnel to challenge prevailing concepts of what constitutes "proper" television. In each city students and station engineers will ultimately cooperate in the production of videotapes that conceivably-in their use of patterns, sounds, and images-may influence television in much the same way that underground films have affected ideas of what is "acceptable" in the motion picture.

As a result of two grants to the Yorktown BOCES (Board of Cooperative Educational Services), a group of twenty Westchester County teachers studied filmmaking with a resident program director in preparation for courses to be offered in their schools, and several of them have already taught in a summer filmmaking course offered by BOCES for high school students, also funded by the Council. A similar summer workshop at the Horace Mann School in the Bronx was also supported by the Council. In Tuckahoe, the Loft Film and Theatre Center of Bronxville sponsored a summer film workshop for young people that is continuing as a year-round storefront film studio. In Albany's South End, grammar school girls and boys as well as some teen-agers learned the fundamentals of filmmaking in a project sponsored by the Council and the Upper Hudson Library Federation.

Several lecture and workshop programs brought professional filmmakers and their films together before new audiences as a result of grants from the Council. The New York Public Library arranged a series of talks for young people by contemporary filmmakers at branch libraries during the spring and summer months of 1969. The Suffolk County Regional Center sponsored workshops in film for teachers, school administrators, and curriculum specialists in which the opportunity to meet with filmmakers was a primary consideration. The Council also aided a second in-service course for teachers sponsored by the Rochester Area English Council, and has helped an ambitious film festival including appearances by filmmakers and film critics at Niagara University.

The most successful of all Council-aided film series to date was launched last year in the auditorium of Burnt Hills High School in Saratoga County. Here, on each of six evenings, 350 students and 350 adults

gathered to look at movies and talk about them afterward. In 1969-70 the program has been expanded to nine evenings. Similar series supported by the Council were sponsored in other parts of the State by the Columbia County Council on the Arts, the Bay Area Friends of the Fine Arts in Bayport, L.I., the Hoosick Falls Central School District, Peekskill City School District, Adirondack Lakes Center for the Arts and the Konan Center in Lockport. In general, grants to schools and colleges to increase the number of films shown in film courses and to help toward appearances by film specialists showed a growth over previous years. At New York City's Phoenix House, a rehabilitative center for narcotics addicts, a series of films was followed by discussions with film critic Susan Rice. A likely outgrowth would be a filmmaking course in the center's arts program.

The paucity of good contemporary movies for five- to twelve-year-olds was a basic consideration in the development of a program for inner-city children at the Bleecker Street Cinema in New York City. The premise—which the exuberant reactions of the audiences supported—was that older action films like *The Adventures of Robin Hood*, *Broken Arrow*, and *The Day the Earth Stood Still* are more appealing and engaging to children than many of the mechanical million-dollar studio productions of today. Whether film companies can be induced to re-release such older films commercially so that they can be seen by new audiences of school-age children remains to be seen.

Peter Bradley

Four-year comparison of the Film Program's aid to community film series, film courses, and film speakers' appearances

	Council Support	Local Support	Sponsors
1969-70*	\$20,200	\$47,200	71
1968-69 **	17,100	32,700	62
1967-68	11,600	21,840	32
1966-67	8,600	8,000	5

*Projected

**Revised after the previous annual report.

Grants for film rentals to schools and colleges in 1969

Parenthetical numbers refer to multiple grants. An asterisk (*) indicates a grant supported by 1968-69 funds.

Community	Sponsor
Alfred	Alfred University
Annandale-on-Hudson	Bard College
Bronx	Horace Mann School
Brooklyn	Brooklyn College of the City University of New York (2)*, Grover Cleveland High School
Burnt Hills	Burnt Hills-Ballston Lake High School
Canandaigua	Canandaigua Academy
Cooperstown	New York State Historical Association
Ellenville	Ellenville High School
Great Neck	North Shore Community Arts Center
Hempstead	Hofstra University
Lockport	Kenan Center
Long Beach	Long Beach High School

New Rochelle	College of New Rochelle, Iona College
New York City	Convent of the Sacred Heart, Elizabeth Irwin High School
Ossining	Ossining High School
Patchogue	Patchogue-Medford High School*
Peekskill	Peekskill High School
Scarsdale	Scarsdale High School*
Sparkill	St. Thomas Aquinas College*
Stone Ridge	Ulster County Community College
Yorktown Heights	Yorktown High School*

Speakers' appearances arranged by the Film Program in 1969.

Parenthetical numbers refer to multiple appearances. An asterisk (*) indicates a grant supported by 1968-69 funds.

Community	Speaker
Annandale-on-Hudson	John Bragin (2)*, Roger Greenspun
Briarcliff Manor	John Bragin*
Brightwaters	Andrew Sarris
Canandaigua	Albert Maysles
Ellenville	Arthur Barren, Jack Willis
Farmingdale	John Craddock
Garden City	Carson Davidson, Gordon Hitchens, Sidney Meyers
Great Neck	Rodger Larson*, A. D. Malmfelt, Andrew Sarris, John Simon (2)
Guilderland	Paul Ryan
Highland Falls	Rodger Larson*
Huntington	Arthur Barron, Ed Emshwiller, Anthony Hodgkinson, Rodger Larson, Frederick Wiseman
New York City	George Bouwman (3)*, Carson Davidson*, Martin Dworkin (2), Rodger Larson*, A. D. Malmfelt, Adrienne Mancina, William Sloan
Niagara Falls	Albert Maysles, Andrew Sarris, John Simon
Rochester	Albert Maysles, Henry Putsch, Andrew Sarris*
Smithtown	William jersey

Community Sponsor
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 Alfred University

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 Bard College

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 Brooklyn College of the City University of New York (2)*, Crover Cleveland High School

Burnt Hills
 Burnt Hills-Ballston Lake High School

Canandaigua
Canandaigua Academy

Cooperstown
New York State Historical Association

Ellenville
Ellenville High School

Great Neck
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Lockport
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Long Beach
Long Beach High School

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